

Appl. No. 10/624,954
Amdt. dated 1/18/08
Reply to Office action of 9/21/07

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-8 remain in the application and are subject to examination. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended. No claims have been added or canceled.

In "Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103," item 2 on pages 2-5 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 1-8 have been rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 1,542,027 to Blaine in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,490,974 to Wadlinger et al. (hereinafter Wadlinger) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The rejection has been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application.

More specifically, in order to claim the cylinder 3 shown in Fig. 1 of the instant application, instead of calling for "at least one of a form and a blanket cylinder," claims 1 and 8 now call for "a single cylinder acting as a form cylinder, a blanket cylinder or both."

Support for the changes is found on page 11, lines 19-24 of the Specification of the instant application, which make it clear that the cylinder 3 can have a printing form or a rubber blanket or both cylinder covers clamped thereon.

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Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful. Claim 1 calls for, *inter alia*, a device for throwing-on impression and throwing-off impression in a printing press, comprising:

an impression cylinder;

a single cylinder acting as a form cylinder, a blanket cylinder or both;

an applicator roller;

a roller throw-on and throw-off bearing for throwing said applicator roller on and off said single cylinder, said roller throw-on and throw-off bearing including a rotatably mounted first actuating element;

a cylinder throw-on and throw-off bearing for throwing said single cylinder on and off said impression cylinder, said cylinder throw-on and throw-off bearing including a rotatably mounted second actuating element;

a coupler forming a coupler mechanism together with said first and said second actuating elements; and

a thrust joint having a dead thrust travel and articulately connecting one of said actuating elements to said coupler.

Independent claim 8 contains similar language.

The Blaine reference discloses an inking or applicator roller 14 which can be thrown on and off a form cylinder 10 by a mechanism 18, 20, 21 and 23. Blaine also shows a blanket cylinder 11 which can be thrown on and off a non-illustrated impression cylinder.

However, the form cylinder 10 in Blaine cannot be thrown on and off an impression cylinder. This is made clear from page 1, lines 43 – 45 of Blaine which state that

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the rubber blanket cylinder 11 (thus not the form cylinder 10) can be thrown on and off the (non-illustrated) impression cylinder.

However, claims 1 and 8 call for a single cylinder acting as a form cylinder, a blanket cylinder or both, and the single cylinder being thrown on and off the impression cylinder. Accordingly, the single cylinder may act as a form cylinder which is thrown on and off the impression cylinder. This is not the case in Blaine in which the form cylinder 10 cannot be thrown on and off any other cylinder.

Furthermore, in the Response to Arguments, the Examiner states that there are allegedly advantages in integrating the elongated hole in Wadlinger into the mechanism in Blaine. However, it is entirely clear to an ordinarily skilled artisan that such an integration would lead to the deterioration of the function, if not even the inoperability, of the Blaine device. As stated in the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7 of the Response filed July 10, 2007:

When explaining the ordinarily skilled artisan's alleged motivation for combining the references to Blaine and Wadlinger, the Examiner mentioned an advantage (better positioning control of the coupling drive in Blaine) which is not achieved if one were to use the elongated hole in Wadlinger in the mechanism in Blaine. Contrary to the Examiner's assumption, such a use would lead to inaccuracies in the positioning control of the coupling drive in Blaine and would therefore be disadvantageous. In other words, the ordinarily skilled artisan starting out with Blaine would avoid unnecessary play in the mechanism of Blaine so as to make it operate more precisely. However, by using the elongated hole of Wadlinger in the mechanism of Blaine as suggested in the Office action, unnecessary play would become part of the mechanism.

Clearly, Blaine does not show a single cylinder acting as a form cylinder, a blanket cylinder or both, as recited in claims 1 and 8 of the instant application, but instead

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Blaine has both a form cylinder 10 and a blanket cylinder 11 which are separate from one another.

Additionally, Blaine does not show a cylinder acting as a form cylinder (on to and off of which an applicator roller can be thrown) which is thrown on and off an impression cylinder, as recited in claims 1 and 8 of the instant application, but instead the form cylinder 10 in Blaine has no association at all with the non-illustrated impression cylinder.

Enclosed herewith as Exhibit A is a sketch showing the Blaine device at the top and the device recited in claims 1 and 8 of the instant application at the bottom.

It may be seen that in Blaine, two different cylinders are present, namely a form cylinder 10 on to which and off of which an inking or applicator roll 14 can be thrown, and a blanket cylinder 11 which can be thrown on and off an impression cylinder.

It may also be seen that in the invention of the instant application as claimed, an applicator roller 4, a single cylinder 3 (which can act as a blanket cylinder or a form cylinder or both) and an impression cylinder 2 are present. The applicator roll 4 can be thrown on and off the single cylinder 3 (which can act as a blanket cylinder or a form cylinder or both) and the single cylinder 3 (which can act as a blanket cylinder or a form cylinder or both) can be thrown on and off the impression cylinder 2.

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Therefore, the instant application claims a single cylinder (which can act as a blanket cylinder or a form cylinder or both) on which and from which the applicator roll can be thrown and which can be thrown on and off the impression cylinder. This is certainly not true of Blaine which is not capable of performing the claimed function.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1 or 8. Claims 1 and 8 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-8 of the instant application are solicited.

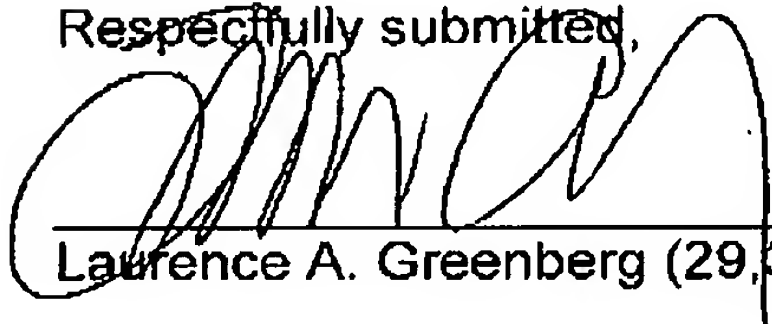
In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Petition for a one month extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of one month pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$120.00 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

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Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and
1.17 to Deposit Account Number 12-1099 of Lerner Greenberg Sterner LLP.

Respectfully submitted,



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LAG/lq

January 18, 2008

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